the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism on 25-26 June 2001 in Washington D.C. These issues, *inter alia,* also featured in the discussions during other bilateral visits between the two sides, including during the visit to the United States by Minister of External Affairs and Defence in April 2001 and during the visits to India by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in May 2001 and by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Mrs. Christina Rocca in July 2001.

Shuttling of Chhota Rajan

3415. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gangster Chhota Rajan who has escaped from Bangkok hospital in mysterious circumstances sometime back is presently shuttling between Luxembourg and Switzerland to escape law in India;

(b) if so, the details of his present whereabouts and activities;

(c) whether there is any progress in locating and apprehending his contacts in nefarious activities in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated against him; and

(e) the measures taken in recent weeks to get Chhota Rajan extradited to India to face the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) Government have no information about the present whereabouts and activities of Sadashiv Nikalje @ Chhota Rajan. A request prepared by the Mumbai Police for the extradition of the fugitive offender, was forwarded to the Government of Thailand on 16.10.2000. Further measures for extraditing him to India can be taken only when his whereabouts are known.

Sanctions imposed by U.S.

3416. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctions imposed by the United States due to the nuclear test during 1998 have been lifted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and